

PLUMBERS BOARD MEETING MINUTES FOR NOVEMBER 1, 2006

MEETING CONVENED AT: 8:40 A.M.

MEETING ADJOURNED AT: 10:45 P.M.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Robert Dudley, *Chairperson*
David Told
Ed Gongaware
David Halverson
Gloria Miley

DOPL STAFF: J. Craig Jackson, *Director DOPL*
F. David Stanley, *Associate Director*
Dennis Meservy, *Bureau Manager*
Wayne Holman, *Investigations*
Katie Tris, *Board Secretary*
Alan Dawes, *Bureau 4*

VISITORS: Will Pierce, *Salt Lake Community College*
Ralph Pond, *Pond Plumbing*
Boyd Young, *B. Young Plumbing & Heating*
Kevin Flannery, *Shamrock Plumbing*
Dave Durrant, *Durrant Slate Plumbing*

MINUTES: Robert Dudley, chairperson, called the meeting to order at 8:40 a.m.

The October 4, 2006 minutes were presented for approval. David Halverson made a motion to accept the October minutes and the motion was seconded by David Told. All members voted in favor of the motion.

MASTER PLUMBER: Told went to the last meeting with Senator Jenkins, where the pending legislation for the master plumber license classification was discussed. The master plumber classification is modeled after the electrician's statute. However, the master plumber license classification would require a year of education in business/finance. Also, the proposed bill, unlike the electricians, would not allow a person with an associate degree and two years of practical experience to become a master. Industry supports the master plumber classification. Too many contractors fail in business, because they lack the necessary business and supervisory skills. It also appears the Homebuilders Association is supporting the legislation.

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4TH YEAR APPRENTICE:

A 4th year apprentice can work unsupervised for eight hours in a twenty-four hour period. The 4th year apprentice was given to the plumbers in the last legislative session of the state legislature. However, the electricians have had this provision in the law for sometime. There are those in the plumbing industry that are of the opinion the 4th year apprentice only applies to commercial work, because you can become a residential journeyman in three years. Electricians also have a residential journeyman license classification. Dennis Meservy said when he was in investigations he found more 4th year electrical apprentices on residential job sites than he ever did on commercial job sites. It was mentioned a residential journeyman plumber must also have an apprentice license to work on commercial plumbing. The 4th year apprentice provision of the law applies to both commercial and residential type work.

EDUCATION:

Will Pierce of the Salt Lake Community College was working on setting up an education subcommittee. The goal of the subcommittee is to look at the curriculum of the state schools and make sure the schools were teaching the same thing. Also, to identify the strengths and weaknesses of the curriculum and make sure it meets the needs of the plumbing industry. An effort was being made to have the subcommittee membership made up of administrators, educators and industry. A number of names have been identified and Pierce said he was hoping to have at least one meeting with the subcommittee prior to the next board meeting. Ed Gongaware, a member of the board, volunteered to be on the subcommittee. Gongaware wanted everyone to understand he was doing this to make sure the union curriculum would coincide with the state schools curriculum.

IAPMO & ICC LETTER:

The board reviewed the letter to IAPMO and ICC. The letter was to encourage them to set aside their differences and again start negotiations to have a single plumbing code. Told made a motion to approve the letter with the two corrections and Halverson seconded the motion. All members voted in favor of the motion.

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HANDYMAN EXEMPTION:

Boyd Young is concerned that many of the traditional plumbing jobs have been ceded to handymen who are unlicensed and lack experience. Wayne Holman said 58-55-305(1)(h)(i) of the state code is often referred to as the handyman exemption. This statute provided an exemption for alteration or repair work that has a total value, including the cost of both labor and material, of less than a thousand dollars, but does not allow any plumbing or electrical work. According to Holman, the concern Young was talking about had to do with state code 58-55-305(1)(k)(i). This exemption allowed for minor plumbing work incidental to replacement or repair of a fixture. Young was of the opinion the statute that allowed for the exemption of plumbing work was wrong and wanted to know what the board was going to do about it. The law would have to be changed by the state legislature. Also, the legislation would have to be supported by the plumbing industry. There was an affirmative reply, when Young said the board could use their influence to support such legislation.

Young also wanted to know why propane was allowed outside the plumbing domain. Young was informed the State Fire Marshall by statute regulated propane and it had been that way since probably the early 1980s. Natural gas requires a certification and journeyman plumbers are except from the certification requirement. Young asked do not plumbers work with both propane and natural gas. He said the \$150 annual cost of his propane certification was not worth the few jobs that came his way each year in Box Elder County. He, also, did not think the license numbers of contractors should be listed on the Division's website. This information should not be available and would protect contractors from unauthorized use of their license numbers. It was pointed out to Young that state code 58-55-304(2) required the license number to be placed on all building permits applications, contracts, agreements or bids. In most jurisdictions it was a misdemeanor to falsify a government document and if a building permit was falsified it was up to the local building departments to prosecute. An individual who falsified a building permit application was usually not licensed. Complaints involving unlicensed contractors should be turned over to the Division to investigate. Administrative and/or criminal action can be taken against those that contract without a license.

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Young asked if there was a need for continuing education and whether it made for a better contractor. Young was told if he wanted to change legislation he needed to start with his own state representative or senator. He, also, needed to join a professional organization. Legislators were more likely to respond to an issue that had industry backing.

SOLAR LICENSING CLASS:

There was an October 23rd Division meeting with those from the state energy program and representatives of the solar energy industry. The Plumbing Board had just approved language to change the working of the S215 license classification. The group, however, changed this approved wording to read: “S215 – Solar Thermal Systems Contractor. Construction, repair, and/or installation of Solar Thermal Systems up to the system shut off valve or where the system interfaces with any other plumbing system.

The board after discussing the matter came up with the following language for the S215 license classification: “Solar Thermal Systems Contractor. Construction, repair and/or installation of liquid based systems that gather solar energy to heat or cool, up to the system shut-off valve, or where the system interfaces with any plumbing, interior heating or cooling system.” David Halverson made a motion to adopt the above wording and the motion was seconded by Ed Gongaware. All members voted in favor of the motion.

APPLICATION REVIEW:

Board reviewed out of state applications.

All business concluded, meeting adjourned.

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Note: This report is not intended to be a verbatim transcript, but is intended to record the significant features of what was discussed in the meeting. Discussed items are not necessarily arranged in chronological order.

Board Chairperson Signature

Date

Dennis Meservy, Bureau Manager Signature

Date